A/66/29

United Nations

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

14 July 2011

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 29

Please recycle

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 29

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

14 July 2011

United Nations • New York, 2011

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 0255-1594

[19 July 2011]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Work of the Committee in 2011	3
	A. Agenda of the Committee	3
	B. Report of the Chair of the Committee	3
	C. Recommendations	4
	D. Adoption of the report of the Committee	4

Chapter I
Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/23, the General Assembly, having taken note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/64/29),[1] requested the Chair of the Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Committee held its formal session (454th meeting) on 14 July 2011 at United Nations Headquarters. The Chair also held a number of consultations and meetings during 2011.

3. At the 454th meeting, the following delegations made statements in the general discussion under agenda item 4: Indonesia and China.

4. The Committee is composed of the following States:

(a) 43 members:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mozambique
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

(b) Observers:

Nepal
South Africa
Sweden

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29* (A/64/29).

5. The elected officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chair:

Palitha T. B. Kohona (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairs:

Sarah Clair de Zoeten (Australia)
Andreano Erwin (Indonesia)
Antonio Macheve (Mozambique)

Rapporteur:

Modeste Randrianarivony (Madagascar)

Chapter II
Work of the Committee in 2011

A. Agenda of the Committee

6. At its 454th meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document A/AC.159/L.141, which read as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report of the Chair of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 64/23.
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.
6. Other matters.

B. Report of the Chair of the Committee

7. At its 454th meeting, the Committee considered agenda item 4, concerning the report of the Chair of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 64/23. The Chair made the following comprehensive statement on his consultations:

> "The Committee was established to reach agreement on ways forward in implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The changing security and geopolitical scenarios of this immensely complex region continue to produce more issues for the Member States. These complexities and the profound global changes have overtaken the context in which the 1971 Declaration was conceived. However, the vision that underlies the Declaration continues to be a desirable framework from which the region can benefit in order to ensure peace, security and the prosperity of the people of the Indian Ocean region as they look forward to an era of accelerated growth.
>
> "The region, and in fact the world, have seen profound changes in the strategic and security landscape in the years since the adoption of the Declaration. The so-called cold war is no more. Some disarmament issues have been resolved. Other disarmament work remains. New challenges in the arms trade and disarmament efforts have come to the fore, while non-State players, including terrorist groups, transnational subversive elements and sophisticated piracy have emerged as threats to peace and security within and between States. In fact, piracy is now a major threat. All this has implications for the Indian Ocean as it does for elsewhere in the world. It is precisely because of these diminishing concerns of the past and the emerging concerns of the present that the objectives of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, such as stability, peace and security, remain relevant.
>
> "There are positive developments that the Indian Ocean region has seen in the recent past, particularly in the areas of socio-economic development,

growing regional cooperation in economic, technical and scientific disciplines and, above all, exponential growth in people-to-people contacts. Many countries in the region have registered phenomenal economic growth, and have even managed to withstand the global financial and economic crises. They have provided much-needed stability to the global system, which has recently been affected by a multiplicity of downturns. Nevertheless, new and disturbing threats such as terrorism, illicit arms trafficking, piracy, human smuggling, transnational crime and many other regional and international manifestations of new security concerns seem to work against those positive trends evident in the region. Disarmament and arms control issues have manifested themselves in new dimensions, while progress in arms control has not been noteworthy.

"In view of these complex and evolving issues, we believe that the Ad Hoc Committee has a continuing role to play on the basis of broad-based participation open to all Member States within the region and beyond. Since the Committee itself has not been able to develop common ground for a way forward in any functional sense, in order to implement the Declaration, it is time for the Committee to be open to considering new approaches. The scope of the work of the Committee, including the revision of the Declaration in a pragmatic manner that corresponds to the current realities in the region, may be an element on which Member States may wish to reflect.

"It is therefore time for the members of the Committee to consider views as to how such new approaches could be developed and how recommendations could be made to the General Assembly regarding a way forward.

"Our view is that, on the basis of the thoughts expressed by Member States within the framework of the Committee, the Bureau should therefore continue the consultative processes."

C. Recommendations

8. The Chair was requested to continue informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

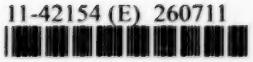
D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

9. At its 454th meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee.

10. At the same meeting, the Chair informed the members of the Committee of his intention to hold informal consultations concerning the text of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted its report.

11-42154 (E) 260711



Please recycle